

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06 DRC-01 /051 W

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P R 120145Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO D L ALVERSON DIRECTOR NORTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE 2725 MONTLAKE BLVD EAST SEATTLE WASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9905
HARRY RIETZE REGIONAL DIRECTOR NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE JUNEAU ALA

UNCLAS TOKYO 1873

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, XP

SUBJECT: U.S. GROUND FISH OBSERVER PROGRAM

REF: TOKYO 1514

PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WASHDC

1. JFA CLAIMS THERE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT "INTERVAL" BETWEEN TIME ONE
TEAM DEBARKS FROM JAPANESE VESSEL AND REPLACED BY NEW TEAM ON SAME
VESSEL. SINCE NELSON AND ROBINSON RECENTLY DEBARKED SOYO MARU,
GOJ CLAIMS SUFFICIENT INTERLUDE HAS NOT YET ELAPSED TO ACCEPT THEIR
REPLACEMENTS. LACK AVAILABILITY CARRIER VESSEL WAS CITED AS ALSO
POSING PROBLEM.

2. POST INDICATED DESIRABILITY PLACING OBSERVERS ASAP ON BOARD VESSELS

THIS QUARTER SINCE ADQUATE FIRST QUARTER OBSERVATIONS REQUIRED
SO AS TO HELP RESOLVE ISSUE AT NOVEMBER INPFC MEETING RE INCIDENTAL
CATCH HALIBUT.

3. IN RESPONSE QUERY AS TO WHEN GOJ WOULD ACCEPT NEW TEAM OBSERVERS,
YONEZAWA, COUNCILLOR, AFTER CONSULTATION IMURA, CHIEF, HIGH SEAS
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TRAWL SECTION, STATED LIEKLY EARLY MARCH BUT WOULD DEPEND AVAILA-

BILITY CARRIER VESSEL.

4. BOARDING OF TWO-MAN TEAM ON MOTHERSHIP IN MARCH TO FULFILL GOJ COMMITMENT ACCEPT TOTAL SIX OBSERVERS FIRST QUARTER MEANS TEAM WILL BE ON BOARD JAPANESE MOTHERSHIP WELL INTO SECOND QUARTER. THIS LAG CONCEIVABLY COULD OCCUR EACH QUARTER. IN FINAL FOURTH QUARTER, TEAM BOARDING IN DECEMBER WOULD BE ON BOARD JAPANESE VESSELS WELL INTO EARLY 1975, EVEN INTO FEBRUARY, DEPENDING AVAILABILITY CARRIER VESSELS. JFA CLAIMS THIS SHOULD NOT PRESENT PROBLEM, BUT POST RECOMMENDS NMFS RECONFIRM THIS UNDERSTANDING WITH YONEZAWA IN SEATTLE.

5. FYI. JFA'S INTERPRETATION OF SUFFICIENT INTERVAL SEEMS TO BE MINIMUM OF ABOUT ONE MONTH. SHOULD SOYO MARU ACCEPT NEW TEAM IN MARCH, ACTUAL

INTERVAL WILL BE NEARLY TWO MONTHS SINCE APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS REQUIRED BY CARRIER VESSELS TO MAKE RUN FROM JAPAN TO FISHING GROUNDS AND NELSON/ROBINSON DEBARKED SOYO JAN 22. SHOULD SOYO NOT ACCEPT NEW TEAM OBSERVERS, NEXT TEAM WILL LIKELY BE INVITED BOARD ONE OF SEVERAL MOTHERSHIPS DEPARTING LATE MARCH (PARA 4, REFTTEL) WHICH MEANS ACTUAL OBSERVATIONS WILL BEGIN APRIL. SUGGEST NMFS EXPLORE WITH YONEZAWA STATUS OF THAT TEAM IN CONTEXT PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE SINCE GOJ MAY WELL CONSIDER THAT TEAM TO CONSTITUTE BEGINNING SECOND ROUND (QUARTER) OBSERVERS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO01873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740237/aaaabjdy.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 1514
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAR 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. GROUND FISH OBSERVER PROGRAM
TAGS: EFIS, JA, XP, US
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005